

DRY CLEANING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE FUND (DERF)

Authorization: s. 292.65, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 169, Wis. Admin. Code

Budget: Approximately \$1 million annually. Exact amount each year varies, depending on the spending authority granted by the Legislature.

Objective: Reimbursing the costs associated with the investigation and cleanup of contamination caused, by the discharges of dry cleaning products from a dry cleaning facility.

Eligibility: Owners, operators, parent & subsidiary corporations and their agents of a dry-cleaning facility (as defined under s. 292.65(1)(h) or (j), Wis. Stats.)

Level of Assistance: The applicant is reimbursed 100% of the eligible expenses after the variable deductible is withheld, to a maximum reimbursement of \$500,000 per site. (See s. 292.65(8)(e), Wis. Stats., for details.)

Priorities: The highest priority is for threats to municipal wells, other water sources, and urgent spill projects. The DNR project manager will assign a risk evaluation to each project based on the amount of material spilled and the level of threat to others and to the environment.

Eligible Types of Projects: Only site investigation and remediation of site-specific dry cleaning product releases are eligible for reimbursement.

Applications: Available on the DNR web page (see below) are all the application materials needed, along with details on all of the above. Applications for reimbursing site investigation costs may be submitted when the site investigation report is submitted to and approved by the department. All applications must be submitted within 120 days of completing the response activity.

History: This is a self-insurance program that is funded by a self imposed 1.8 % fee on dry cleaning sold at all licensed dry cleaners. The statute was first put in place on October 14, 1997. The program has continued to grow and change since the beginning when the code first took effect on February 1, 2000. Now DERF has over 130 sites around Wisconsin.

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